



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1873.

**MONTICELLO.**—In the Court of Appeals of Va., on Wednesday, in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Levy, Judge Moncreu delivered the opinion of the court. The case is in relation to the will of Com. Levy and the devise of "Monticello" to the State for the purpose of establishing an Agricultural school. A full history of the case was recently published in this paper. The construction of the will has been passed upon by the Supreme Court of New York, and it was there decided that the property, consisting of real and personal estate in New York, and real estate in Virginia, which was devised for the establishment of and the carrying on the school was void, and that court gave the property to the heirs at law of Commodore Levy. In consequence of that decision, our court decides that the invalidity of the devise is in all its parts *res adjudicata*. The judgment of the court below is affirmed and Monticello goes to Levy's heirs.

Many of the best men in the Southern States, says the New Orleans Picayune, are Northern men—men born in New England—in Massachusetts. Many Northern men have come to the South, before and since the war, to do business and find homes. And those who come with such views will seldom fail to be appreciated and to receive the welcome and the position to which they are entitled. The people of the South are desirous of having as many settlers as possible of this description." The Petersburg Appeal says:—"With these sentiments we entirely agree. No fact is better established in the history of these Southern States, than that the man of character who emigrated from the North to the South, has in all cases been received according to his individual merits. No people on earth are quicker to recognize or more ready to reward merit, by whomsoever displayed, than the people of the South. And we feel safe in asserting that both prior to and since the war, no people were ever more ready to extend the hand of welcome and friendship to any man who might come amongst them with honest intentions, either as a visitor or a settler.

The Crisfield, Md., Leader of the 25th inst. says that on Wednesday night, the 14th inst., the schooner "Two Brothers," Capt. Guy, and "Nabob," Capt. John Evans, from Smith's Island, Va., and the sloop "Star," Capt. Thomas, from Somerset county, Md., while lying in St. George's harbor, St. Mary's county, Md., and just above the mouth of the Potomac river, were attacked by armed colored men, under the command of three white men, two of the vessels being seized and taken up a creek, while the captains and crews were subjected to harsh treatment. The offense charged was dredging for oysters. They were fined \$500 each, but on consideration, the amount was reduced to \$150 in the case of the first two, while Captain Thomas's was reduced to \$225. Captains Evans and Guy paid the \$150, but Thomas got off on a "promise to pay."

A dispatch from Topeka, in Kansas, says that "Senator Pomeroy is lying dangerously ill and his physicians have forbidden admission to his room. He has reconsidered his determination to make a public statement concerning the Yorke disclosure, and will say nothing on the subject until his trial comes on. The trial is set for to-day, but will, in all probability, be postponed. The rumor is current that he will not resume his seat in the Senate, and will tender his resignation within two or three days. Further deposits of bribe money, it is said, have been made with the Secretary of the Senate to-day to the amount of six thousand two hundred dollars. It is stated that the money was paid in by members of the Legislature, who received it from Pomeroy, but their names have not been disclosed."

The Southern claims commission had before them the witnesses in behalf of the cases of F. J. Brooks, of Georgetown, D. C., for about \$8,000 worth of horses and cattle; John Cornwall, of Anacostia, D. C., for \$5,000 worth of supplies taken from his farm in Fairfax county, Va., and Dr. Webster M. Rains, of Washington, D. C., formerly of Macon, Ga., for \$30,000 worth of supplies furnished to Union prisoners escaping from Andersonville or confined at Macon, including one charge of \$10,000 for supplies to three brigadier generals, thirty-five colonels and nine majors. Also, they heard the claims of Geo. Sinclair, formerly of Lancaster county, S. C., \$3,229; heirs of A. G. McKenney, Caroline county, Va., \$6,870, and Edward Cody, Lewinsville, Fairfax county, Va., \$150.

It is said that a startling fraud has been discovered in the office of the Auditor of Kansas. The Auditor's registry of lands was discovered to contain \$200,000 in bonds purporting to have been issued by the cities of Gregory, Cloud, and Budlong, in Cherokee county, Kansas, to the Memphis, Carthage, and Northwestern Railroad Company. There are no such places in Cherokee county, nor in Kansas, and the bonds are evidently bogus. The names of the cities given are names of prominent citizens of Carthage, Mo. It is supposed that an attempt has been or is now making to negotiate the bonds in Eastern markets.

The newspapers, every where almost, mention in rather ironical terms, that Mr. Wilson, the Vice President that is to be, and Mr. Colfax, the Vice President that is, recently delivered addresses before the Young Men's Christian Association in Philadelphia, and that they both neglected altogether to mention the Credit Mobilier!

The Washington Chronicle says: "The committee of Southern (Radical) members appointed after recent consultation to solicit the President to recognize the South in the reorganization of his Cabinet, had a consultation with him a day or two since, in which they made known their desires. They were cordially received and courteously treated. They were assured that when the proper time arrived and circumstances permitted, the President would be glad to conform to their wishes. He implied that the conditions precedent were not yet met."

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. Jos. B. Stewart was arraigned charged with contempt in refusing to answer certain questions asked by the Wilson Credit Mobilier investigating committee. He made a speech of over an hour in length, claiming that he was not guilty of contempt, but only refused to answer questions touching matters entrusted to him as an attorney by clients. The House refused to consider that he had purged himself of contempt and ordered him to be held in custody until he should see fit to answer the committee. Mr. Stewart was far from making a favorable impression.

The New York papers give an account of a singular robbery in New York in the office of the Houston and Texas Railroad, a few days ago, by which railroad liabilities to the amount of \$40,000 or 50,000 were lost. A gentleman who held the bonds, laid them on a window sill, and stepped across the room to look at a map. His eyes were off, for three or four minutes, in which time two strangers came in, rapidly went out—and the liabilities as rapidly disappeared.

The argument in favor of paying the old war pensioners, in the House of Representatives, yesterday, was remarkable in the fact not only that Gen. B. F. Butler led off in its support, but that Col. Farnsworth, commander of the 8th Illinois Cavalry during the war, followed in a fervent speech on the same side.

The report of the commissioners appointed by Virginia to fix the boundary line between Virginia and Maryland, which was submitted to the Senate by the Governor in the early part of the session, and by the Senate referred to its committee on Federal relations, &c., has never been made public.

To attempt to quote Latin in a newspaper, especially if the editor doesn't see the "proof," is a dangerous business, as we found in yesterday's Gazette two errors in a sentence of five words!

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says that "the straitened financial condition of the board of public works will necessitate a discharge of a large number of the employees of the board at an early day."

After much trouble, the House of Delegates has passed the oyster bill. The oyster men say it will ruin their business, and others say it will produce no revenue, worth speaking about.

The Louisiana committee expect to close their labors by Tuesday. The testimony yesterday disclosed a very bad state of feeling, that promises little for the harmonious working of parties.

It is understood that the President has determined to send a commission to treat with the Modoc Indians, or to bring about, if possible, a settlement of difficulties.

Mr. Butler appeared in a much more favorable light than usual, in his speech in the House of Representatives, yesterday, for which he deserves credit.

We have received from the publishers, Messrs. Boosey & Co., New York, No. 20 of Boosey's Musical Cabinet.

## VIRGINIA NEWS.

Chester, the Richmond correspondent of the Petersburg Index, says: "There is an attempt every session of the Legislature to change the law in relation to marriages within prohibited degrees, and recently an act was passed, which allows a man to marry his uncle's or his nephew's widow, but it did not establish a corresponding change for the benefit of the ladies, as ought to have been done. As a matter of justice it will again have to be amended so as to allow a woman to marry her aunt's or her niece's widower."

The Fredericksburg News says: "The Fredericksburg, Orange and Charlottesville Railroad have finished the settlement of all land damages and have purchased iron for eight miles of track, which is on its way here. Track laying will begin as soon as the weather opens. The severe weather and the horse disease have caused much delay, but the contractors will go ahead in earnest at as early a day as possible."

The Fredericksburg News says: "The roads in the Northern Neck have been so abominable that several citizens have come up to Fredericksburg driving four horses, in the old style. One of them told us that four was not enough, and he was sorry he had not driven six."

Mr. James Wright, jr., residing at Bowling Green, Caroline county, died suddenly on Sunday night of last week. He retired apparently in his usual health, but was found dead in his bed next morning.

Mr. Samuel Varner, near Marksville, in Page county, lost, last week, four hogs and one cow from hydrophobia. They had been bitten some weeks ago by a mad dog running through the country.

Messrs. Smith and Canswell, who came from Scotland about a month ago, have purchased the farm, containing 125 acres, of Mr. William Campbell, in Caroline county, for \$1,100.

A company has been formed in Harrisonburg with a capital of \$30,000, which may be increased to \$250,000 or \$300,000, to manufacture a new paint.

The Richmond and York River Railroad is to be sold on the second day of May next.

THE CESNOLA COLLECTION.—A famous collection of Egyptian antiquities which General L. P. di Cesnola, the American Consul at Cyprus, recently discovered, and which are the envy of our cousins across the water and the despair of the European archaeologists, who were deprived of the opportunity of seeing them swell the collections at the British Museum, arrived at this port a few days ago, and are now arranged for exhibition in a vast mansion, leased for that purpose, pending the completion of the Central Park Museum. The affair is of national importance, and neither General di Cesnola's devotion to art and practical shrewdness nor the enterprise of Mr. John Taylor Johnson, the purchaser of the collection, can be too highly approved.—N. Y. Herald.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times"

The Baltimore American says there seems to be a well-founded belief that the murderers of Mrs. Mary Lampley at her home in East Baltimore, on the night of the 2d instant, are to be brought to punishment. Yesterday afternoon the police arrested on the charge of having committed this terrible crime two young men, one named Josiah Nicholson, a connection of Mrs. Lampley by marriage, having married her granddaughter, and the other a party of very bad reputation (having several aliases) named Thomas Hollibaugh. The former is a native of Baltimore, a tin-can maker by trade, and is about thirty years of age. The latter has lately served a term in the Maryland Penitentiary, and is only about twenty-eight years of age. The police represent that the evidence against these parties is full and conclusive.

The arrest of Wm. J. Boyd, late Assistant Postmaster at Cumberland, on the charge of embezzlement, has occasioned much excitement in that city. He has hitherto enjoyed a good character. A strict church member, he apparently led a blameless life, and seemed to be living within his means. The amount taken was something less than \$2,500, of which he has returned \$1,000, the money being made up by his friends. He is still in arrears \$1,500, for which the Postmaster holds his note. Upon being brought before United States Commissioner Rogers in Baltimore, Mr. Boyd underwent an examination and gave bail in the sum of \$5,000 for his appearance at the next term of the United States District Court.

Wearied with the exactions of the St. Crispin Association, five large boot and shoe manufacturers of Baltimore have entered upon a war of independence. Their manifesto describes the business embarrassments under which they labor because of the regulations of the Association, and admitting their right as freemen to belong to any organization they choose, they claim the same privilege for themselves, and are determined to act as freemen in their own establishments. They have accordingly formed a defensive league, and have each given bonds for one thousand dollars to be forfeited in case they violate any of the resolutions that they have subscribed to.

The Supreme Court of Louisiana has decided on an appeal from a lower court in favor of Morgan, whom Pinchback appointed associate justice, and against Keuward, whom Warmoth appointed, but who was not confirmed by the Senate. It was also decided that Pinchback was the legal Lieutenant Governor when the Legislature met, the legal acting Governor on the impeachment of Warmoth, and that the Legislature was legal, being returned by the legal Returning Board.

The argument in the Wharton case, at Annapolis, was continued yesterday. Mr. Thomas, for the defense, commenced and concluded his argument, and was followed by Mr. Syester, for the State, who intimated his readiness to continue his argument to its conclusion, but in consequence of the sickness of a jurymen the court adjourned. Mr. Syester was to have resumed and concluded the closing argument this morning.

The arguments in the case of Tweed, in New York, were continued yesterday. At their conclusion Judge Davis delivered a long charge to the jury, in the main adverse to the accused. When the jury retired he left the court room, returning about 11 o'clock last night, and finding the jury not agreed, he ordered them to be locked up for the night, and adjourned the court until this morning.

A curious story comes from London to the effect that Louis Napoleon meditated a movement for the recovery of his throne, and that certain American bankers assisted him with a loan of £200,000. It is said that the money has been refunded since his death. This is doubtless a story.

Immense snow-drifts are reported on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad. The trains have forced their way through with commendable promptness, but it is said there has been great suffering among the men employed to assist in clearing the track, and some have perished.

A dispatch from New York city says that it has been decided by the members of the Synodicate that subscription books to the government loan be opened simultaneously in Europe and America on February 4th, and remain open until the evening of the 7th.

Berlin papers of yesterday announced the death at Dresden, of the ex-Empress Carlotta, but the report was afterwards pronounced untrue by a telegram from the latter city. Her condition, however, is said to be such that death is probable at any moment.

The costly residence of the late Edwin A. Stevens, at Castle Point, on the outskirts of Hoboken, and known as the "Stevens Castle," took fire yesterday and was damaged to the amount of \$10,000.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg represents the Russians as much excited over the reported atrocities of the Khivians. The Russian soldiers who fall into the hands of the Khivians are said to have been massacred without mercy.

Dispatches from many parts of the country tell of the excessive cold weather which has prevailed for two days past. It seems to be conceded that it has been, by several degrees, the coldest experienced for many years.

The revelations of a committee of inquiry of the French National Assembly in regard to the Lyons war contracts, caused an excited debate in that body yesterday, and some harsh personalities were indulged in.

Three men, charged with having set fire to the town to Aaron Rock, Missouri, on New Year's day, were arrested yesterday. One of them was promptly hanged, and the others are supposed to be in danger.

The Californians propose to send a venerable peace-maker named Elijah Steele to the camp of Captain Jack, the Modoc warrior, to the end that he may beseech him to desist from his present course.

A pardon was issued yesterday to W. D. Barnes, an alleged South Carolina Klux-Klux, now in confinement at the Albany penitentiary.

The Queen of Spain yesterday gave birth to a son.

PROGRESS IN CALIFORNIA.—The cultivation of oranges in California is extending. Hitherto the supply has mainly come from Los Angeles; now they come in liberally from several other counties, and are produced even north of 39 degrees without difficulty.

The production of wine and brandy in 1872 is estimated at 3,000,000 gallons.

The manufacture of sugar from beets has been so far successful as to induce much larger plantings and preparations for another year. Eight thousand tons of beets were raised last year for the purpose.

## FROM RICHMOND.

## LEGISLATIVE.

RICHMOND, Jan. 30.—In the Senate, to-day, a substitute was presented from the Committee on Immigration for the bill to establish a bureau of immigration; and bills introduced in relation to the times of meeting of the General Assembly, and in relation to taking claims in certain waters of this State.

Bills were passed to encourage donations to the University of Virginia, and to constitute the State of Virginia the trustee thereof, and to release charters of incorporation from tax.

The Assessment bill was further considered.

In the House of Delegates bills were reported and put on the calendar: To declare and prescribe what fees a justice of the peace may charge in trials for small claims; to relieve Edgar Allan, of Farmville, Prince Edward county; to amend the code in regard to when acts of Assembly shall take effect; to amend the code in relation to lands delinquent for taxes; to amend the act authorizing express and other transportation companies to sell unclaimed freight; to amend the code in relation to offenses by negroes; to amend the law in regard to compensation of justices; to repeal the act of February 7, 1869; to fix the price of treasury warrants for lands in Virginia; to amend the act to district the State for county judges; and to regulate the fees of sheriffs.

Adverse reports were made upon the bills to amend the code so as to restrict the compensation of physicians attending coroners' inquests; and to authorize the trustees of the Lutheran church at Woodstock, Shenandoah county, to sell the real estate of said church.

The Committee on Courts of Justice, on a resolution referred to them as to the constitutional validity of the fees law, reported that it was the province of the judiciary department to decide on the constitutionality of laws; which report was adopted.

The Senate bill to amend section 5 of chapter 176 of the code in relation to the destruction of copies of records and papers in public offices as evidence, was passed.

A bill was introduced to amend the act for the relief of sheriffs and other officers whose official papers were lost or destroyed during the late war; and a petition of citizens of Loudoun county presented, asking for such legislation as will make persons who sell ardent spirits responsible for their improper use.

The bill to define the jurisdiction of the county and circuit courts, &c., was taken up, when Mr. Taliaferro moved to reconsider the vote by which his amendment giving the county court jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount involved is less than \$500, was rejected.

The motion was agreed to, and the amendment adopted—yes, 61; noes, 55.

Mr. Riddlebarger moved to dismiss the bill. This motion was opposed by Messrs. Poague, Brooke, Coghill and Hill, and advocated by Mr. Riddlebarger, and pending the debate the House adjourned.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

The Joint Committee of the two Houses of the Legislature, to meet the creditors of the State in conference on the 15th of February, in reference to an adjustment of the State debt, is as follows: On part of the Senate, Messrs. Cochran, Kirkpatrick, Quesenberry and Taylor, of Norfolk; on the part of the House of Delegates, Messrs. Taliaferro, Coghill, Head, Walker, Gilman, Thomas and Douglas.

## THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

The bill pending in the House of Delegates to define the jurisdiction of the county and circuit courts, &c., has been so amended as to give the exclusive jurisdiction to the circuit courts in cases of misdemeanor as well as of felony, and as it now stands, reduces the county courts to mere courts of probate and county management—the circuit courts engrossing all the great mass of cases, both civil and criminal. The bill also proposes to fix the pay of county judges at \$4 per diem for each day actually employed in holding court.

## INDEPENDENT BRANCH M. G. R. R.

In the Senate, yesterday, on motion of Mr. Thomas, the Committee for Courts of Justice were instructed to enquire into and report whether the road bed and land condemned for the extension of the Manassas Gap Railroad from some point east of Thoroughfare Gap to the city of Alexandria has been forfeited by non user, either by the Manassas Gap Railroad Company prior to its consolidation with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company, under the act passed February 14th, 1867, or since by the consolidated company, or whether the same has reverted to the original proprietors of the land, and if so, what legislation is necessary so that said road bed, as it now exists, may be appropriated to the uses and purposes originally contemplated in the act passed March 19th, 1853.

## NEW STEAMBOAT LINE.

A bill has been reported in the House of Delegates authorizing certain counties to vote on the question of subscribing to the capital stock of a company to run a line of steamboats from the landings on the Rappahannock to Baltimore or Norfolk, or both. It proposes to allow the legal voters of the counties of Caroline, Essex, Middlesex, King George, Spotsylvania, Westmoreland, Richmond and Lancaster to vote on the fourth Thursday of May whether they will subscribe to the line of boats as aforesaid, and to what amount; each county to be authorized to issue bonds to the amount of its subscription. Any one or more of the counties voting to subscribe may obtain a charter of incorporation for the company from the circuit court of any county subscribing, &c.

LATERAL ROADS.—Several weeks since we called attention to the suggestion of Mr. J. S. Barbour, president of the O. & A. M. R. R. made in his last annual report, to the policy of the main lines of Railroads in Virginia interesting themselves in building lateral roads as feeders. Allusion was then made to the Reading and Philadelphia road, which was a few years ago, in a very deplorable condition, financially, and that it was now one of the best paying roads in the U. S. by reason of the lateral roads constructed for the purpose of developing the neighboring coal and iron fields. A recent report of the condition of that road, shows that its total receipts for 1872 were \$12,125,038, and its net profits, \$8,063,542. Total tonnage for the year, 18,400,000 tons.

Suppose the narrow gauge road, now being surveyed west from Harrisonburg, were completed, it would develop an amount of mineral wealth almost fabulous. From the time it would strike the mountain range west of Harrisonburg, it would pass through continuous veins of iron ore and coal, until it reached the Ohio. A gentleman from Highland county remarked to us the other day, that in the vicinity of Doe Hill, there were innumerable evidences of iron deposits, but no one felt interested in prospecting for the veins, for the reason that they had no means of utilizing it. He mentioned that a gentleman of that neighborhood, several years ago, made a horse shoe out of the simple ore he sent to Richmond as a specimen of what the raw material would produce.

We hope active steps will be taken to push forward this narrow gauge road. If the company which Mr. Barbour is president, and the Valley railroad company would interest themselves in it, they would be amply repaid by the immense increase of their tonnage, resulting from the development of the coal and iron fields of West Rockingham, Augusta, Highland, &c.—Valley Virginia.

Six persons were seriously wounded by the explosion of a gas main at one of the shops of the Manchester (N. H.) Print Works yesterday morning.

## CREDIT MOBILIER IN ALEXANDRIA, VA.

It will be remembered that a legal controversy has been occupying the attention of the courts in Virginia for some time, between W. N. McVeigh as plaintiff and Judge John C. Underwood as defendant, resulting from the alleged confiscation of the residence of McVeigh, in Alexandria, Va., and the purchase of the same by Judge Underwood, which acts of confiscation were declared null and void by the United States District Court for Virginia. Mr. McVeigh, not getting possession of his property, brought an action of ejectment against Underwood in the Corporation Court of the city of Alexandria, claiming also mesne damages.

Some very strange revelations have been made in the progress of the suit. It was testified to by Francis Dane, of Boston, "that he and other creditors of Mr. McVeigh, after the passage of the confiscation law, attached his property to prevent the government from confiscating it, that they afterwards sold these judgments to Alley, Ames and others, because, as Mr. Dane said they were assured by Alley and Ames, then members of Congress, and Judge Underwood, then judge of the U. S. District Court, under whose decree the confiscation sales were made, that the attachment was worthless, but they were willing to buy the judgement at a much less value than the property, to fall back on if the confiscation failed. In Mr. Ames's words he wanted these judgements to plaster over the property. Previous to the sale under the confiscation Judge Underwood told us that this was the first case in which property had been confiscated in fee simple, and that Mr. Whiting, solicitor of the War Department, had complimented him on that decision."

Dane further testified that the same parties interested in the confiscation sales were present at sale and interested in the attachment sales, and that the property worth \$75,000 brought \$7,000. John C. Balderstone, of Baltimore, testified that the sales did not take place for two hours after the time advertised in order to give time for the transfers to be drawn for Alley and Ames, and that no bell was rung or any effort made to attract bidders, and that "prior to the sale, Mr. Alley insisted that we should not bid against him. The property was bid in by Mr. Alley. I made some bids at his suggestion, and he would bid over me. Mr. Alley managed the bidding. In the settlement of our sale to Mr. Alley and others, I overheard Mr. Alley and Mr. Duncan agree to proportionately share the risk of a note to be given by Judge Underwood for his proportion of the purchase."

Duncan was the deputy marshal, and witness "understood him at the time to be interested in the purchase of the property, and the house adjacent to Mr. McVeigh's residence was allotted to him."—Baltimore Sun.

## CUBA AND HAYTI.—A very interesting and instructive communication has been lately published upon the growth of Cuba in its rich tropical productions and in population, with a comparison of the gradual downfall of Hayti, once the garden of the tropics, and the producer, in its best days, of some of the most valuable products of the world.

The New York Express calls attention to the facts referred to, and the figures which speak for themselves, and cannot be dismissed by cant or false sentiment on the one hand, or by evading the conclusions drawn in the communication. At the commencement of the present century the population of Cuba was 300,000; it is now 1,400,000. In the year 1826 the value of her exports was \$13,809,888, and in 1859 they had increased to \$57,455,185; and during the same year the importations were valued at \$143,465,185. In 1862 Cuba produced from its own soil and resources, to the value of \$305,919,875, a sum equal to \$218 for each member of the population. The exports and imports of the island furnish a large number of American vessels with remunerative freights, and the duties upon merchandise brought to our ports from Cuba add immensely to the revenues of the government. The writer maintains—we know not with what truth—that in any change of government in the island the weak and despotic population will have the power to control it, and that our trade and commerce would thereby suffer materially. Yet, if the Cubans can effect their own liberty, no one in the United States can reasonably object to it, and it is presumed the consequences could be provided for afterwards. The figures, however, in regard to Hayti, are something astounding. The island is next to Cuba the most fertile of the Antilles. In the year 1790 the value of its exports was \$27,828,000, the principal products being—sugar, 163,405,220 lbs.; coffee, 68,151,180 lbs.; cotton, 6,286,126 lbs.; indigo, 930,816 lbs. In 1793 the revolution broke out. In 1849, the last certain data that the statistics furnish, and nearly sixty years after the revolution, the exportation of the above mentioned articles was as follows:—Sugar, none; coffee, 30,608,343 lbs.; cotton, 504,516 lbs.; indigo, none. Since that time the exports have gradually decreased, until, according to the estimate of the correspondent, at the present time they do not exceed in value \$2,000,000.—Balt. Sun.

## ABOLITION OF THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

—The Postmaster General, from time to time, has shown that the actual loss to his Department from franked letters and documents has ranged from two to three millions of dollars a year. For the Presidential canvass of 1872, if all the franked letters and campaign documents sent out from Washington and other points on both sides had paid the usual postage charges it is probable that there would have been a saving of at least four millions of dollars to the Department. From May and June to November the mails from Washington for the East, the West, the North and South were encumbered with tons of electioneering rubbish.—Special Congressional committees were kept industriously employed for months in preparing pamphlets and speeches. And scores of folders were employed in the packing up of all this political chaff and dozens of clerks in addressing and franking it under this or that, and the other Congressman's permission or instructions; and all this mass of stuff from day to day, beginning with the party conventions of May and June and culminating in the opposition collapse of October was packed off "free" through the mails. And this was the real secret of the smothering of the abolition bill in the House at the last session. All parties concerned desired at least once more the full advantages of the franking privilege in the rough, hot work of a presidential contest. We presume that all parties are now satisfied that the game was hardly worth the candle. The new law does not go into effect till July, and in the interval those members of the two houses who contemplate with painful forebodings the payment of their postage can bring up their arrangements in correspondence and clear their decks of all their accumulations of mail matter. Justice is, therefore, so far tempered with mercy in this bill as to adapt it somewhat even to the fixed habits of those Bourbons "who never learn anything and never forget anything." Moreover, in the interval to July the members of the next Congress can inform their constituents of the working of this new law, and that where they wish or expect from their Representative an answer to a letter, the enclosure of a three cent stamp will be the proper thing.—New York Herald.

## COLD WEATHER.—A note from the Plains,

Fauquier county, dated yesterday says:—"The thermometer stood this morning, at sunrise, 14° below zero."

R. H. Downman, of Warrenton, Fauquier county, has been appointed a notary public.

CONGRESS YESTERDAY.—In the Senate, the amendment reported by the House to the Naval Appropriation bill making the term of the naval cadets at Annapolis six years instead of four was replaced and a new section inserted providing for the payment of \$150,000 for the best system of training for boats. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, having under consideration, Mr. Morrill's amendment providing that judgments obtained in the Court of Claims by "disloyal" persons shall not be paid except by special act of Congress, was agreed to and the bill passed. A bill was introduced incorporating the Mississippi and Ohio Tunnel and Tube Company, for the construction of railroad tunnels under the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The House of Representatives was occupied for some time in hearing and disposing of the case of Joseph B. Stewart, a contumacious witness, who refused to answer certain questions propounded by the Credit Mobilier Investigating Committee. Mr. Stewart was brought before the bar of the House and made a long speech, in which he pleaded the privilege of a lawyer, who was under obligations not to disclose transactions between himself and his clients. The House held the excuse as insufficient, and Mr. Stewart was handed over to the Sergeant-at-Arms to be kept in custody until such time as he should choose to purge himself of the contempt by answering the questions. The Fortification appropriation bill was passed, without amendment.

CANAL BILL.—The bill of Mr. Ritchie, of Maryland, in reference to a canal from the Ohio river to the seaboard is now before the House committee on commerce. It provides that the Secretary of War cause examinations, or surveys, or both to be made to ascertain the most feasible route for slackwater or canal navigation between tide-water and the Ohio river, by way of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal first from the mouth of the south branch of the Potomac river, up and along said river, and by way of the Elk and Great Kanawha river, to Point Pleasant, on the Ohio river; secondly, from the city of Cumberland, up and along the north branch of the Potomac river, thence by or near St. George's Court House, along Hughes or Little Kanawha river to Parkersburg; and, thirdly, in connection with said second, or last named line, from the said north branch, by way of the Youghiogheny river and the Monongahela river, to Pittsburgh.

## [COMMUNICATED.]

I hesitate to write anything in regard to an interchange of views respecting the subject of the extension of the District of Columbia over the county and city of Alexandria," but cannot refrain from an expression of surprise that any attempt should be made to manufacture public opinion on "the mess of pottage principle." "The visit was not designed as a movement in favor of retrocession." Oh! no, certainly not, but "for purposes of inquiry." Governor Cook and Vice President Shepherd expressed themselves favorably to the project, and positively promised the one-fifth mess of pottage. Most benignant and promising Shepherd. The guiltability of our citizens must be great to believe that either Cook or Shepherd have a perpetual lease upon life and office. The folly of the proposition must be patent to every mind. Are our old citizens all dead? Can none remember the years previous to 1846, when it was almost impossible to have our actual and necessary wants supplied? Should this unhappy scheme prevail and our people be placed in the power of the exorbitants of Washington, farewell liberty, farewell prosperity, farewell happiness, for I think the first will be inevitable and the other two will follow. Ordinarily I am of a sanguine temperament, but I must confess that this subject relieves me of a portion of it. It is our duty as citizens to battle for the safety and prosperity of our good old city and against any further dismemberment of our glorious old State. Our citizens should investigate this matter calmly and dispassionately, and not be led astray by promises which can never be fulfilled. ANTI-RETROCESSION.

The Liberal Republicans of Missouri yesterday met in Convention at St. Louis, and deliberated as to whether the Republican or the Democratic party should henceforth receive their support; but not being able to come to any decision, they reaffirmed their adherence to the Cincinnati platform and adjourned.

## MARRIED.

At the residence of the bride's father, Fredericksburg, on Wednesday evening, the 26th inst., by Rev. Thomas S. Dunaway, Mr. JAS. A. GRAHAM, of Baltimore city, to Miss CARLIE D. PROCTOR, of Fredericksburg.

In Fredericksburg, on the 28th inst., at the residence of the bride's mother, by Rev. Jas. P. Smith, Mr. J. ARTHUR TAYLOR and Miss MAGGIE H. CHEW, daughter of the late Jas. James Chew, esp., all of Fredericksburg.

Near Woodstock, Prince George's county, Md., by Rev. Dr. M. B. MURPHY, on Thursday last, the 23d inst., WALTER OLTON, esp., of New York city, and MARY E., daughter of Dr. M. J. Stone, of Prince George's county, Md.

## DIED.

In Baltimore, January 28th, 1873, JAMES LANGHORNE GODWIN, aged twenty-two years.

NOTICE.—The Annual Meeting of the ALEXANDRIA AND MARYLAND FERRY COMPANY will be held at the rooms of the Commercial Exchange Building, on MONDAY, the 4th of February, at 11 o'clock a. m.

B. WHEAT, President.

SKATES FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. Sleigh Bells, Sleigh Baskets and Runners, will be sold at reduced prices. Cash on stock, at 88 King street, corner of Royal and Call and see